

## **REMARKS**

Applicant is in receipt of the Office Action mailed December 30, 2004. Claims 1-25 were pending in the application. Applicant has amended claims 9 and 12 and canceled claims 1-8, 10, 11, and 13-25. Accordingly, claims 9 and 12 remain pending in the application.

### **Prior Art Rejections:**

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 15, 16, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Yanai (U.S. Pat. No. 6,173,377). The Office Action rejected claims 20, 21, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by Yanai. The Office Action rejected claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 12, 17, 18, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yanai in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (hereinafter "AAPA"). The Office Action rejected claims 14, 19, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yanai in view of AAPA and further in view of Armangau, et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,549,992). Applicant maintains his traversal of these rejections for at least the reasons given in Applicant's previous response. However, to expedite issuance of a patent, Applicant has amended the present application as indicated below. Applicant will continue prosecution of the previous claims in a continuation application.

### **Allowable Subject Matter:**

Claims 11 and 13 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but otherwise allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Independent claim 9 has been amended to include all the limitations of claim 11. Independent claim 12 has been amended to include all the limitations of claim 13. Therefore, all pending claims should now be in condition for allowance.

**Information Disclosure Statement:**

The Examiner requested the submission of any reference(s) known to qualify as prior art. Applicant submits herewith an Information Disclosure Statement and form PTO-1449. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the references cited therein and return the initialed form PTO-1449.

## CONCLUSION

Applicant asserts that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the present response is believed to be a complete response to the issues raised in the Office Action and full reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions, comments, or suggestions, the undersigned attorney earnestly requests a telephone conference. If any petitions for extensions of time are required or fees are due, said petitions for extensions of time are hereby requested and the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1505/5760-06001/BNK.

Also enclosed herewith are the following items:

☒ Return Receipt Postcard

Respectfully submitted,



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